

IN THE CLAIMS AMEND

1. (Currently Amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having a unitary outer surface ~~having with~~ with two lateral outer sides,
- each of said lateral outer sides having at least one region with raised, roughened texture

integrally molded thereon) that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck.

2. (Previously Amended) A blade as defined in claim 1 wherein said roughened texture region includes a series of small projections.

3. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 1 wherein said roughened texture region is a diamond grit texture projecting from said ~~at least one of said outer surfaces~~ lateral outer sides.

4. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 2 wherein small projections extend above said ~~at least one lateral~~ lateral outer side ~~sides~~ a distance ranging from .005 to 1 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 4 wherein small projections extend above said ~~at least one lateral~~ lateral outer side ~~sides~~ a distance ranging from .02 to .08 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ at least one of said lateral outer ~~surfaces~~ sides further comprises a plurality of individual shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements.

7. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 6 wherein each of said shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements is embedded into a cavity in said unitary outer surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 7 wherein each of said shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements extend above said unitary outer surface by about 1 to 4 mm.

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9. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 6 wherein each of said shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements is bonded to said unitary outer surface.

10. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 6 wherein each of said shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements is made of a deformable material.

11. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 10 wherein each of said shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements is made of a rubberized material.

12. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 7 wherein said blade portion further comprises at least one aperture in an upper area of said blade portion.

13. (Previously Amended) A blade as defined in claim 12 wherein said blade comprises two or more apertures in said upper area of said blade portion.

14. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having two lateral outer sides;

- each of said lateral outer sides having ~~at least two~~ a plurality of spaced-apart cavities therein, each cavity embedding at least two an individual shock-absorbing ~~elements~~ element embedded therein, ~~wherein the at least two cavities are spaced apart from each other on the same lateral outer side of the blade. ;~~

- each of said individual shock-absorbing elements comprising at least one region with a raised, roughened texture that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck.

15. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 14 wherein each of said shock-absorbing ~~element~~ elements is made of a deformable material.

16. (Previously Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 14 wherein each of said shock-absorbing elements are bands of rubberized material.

18. (Currently Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having a unitary outer surface ~~having~~ with two lateral outer sides,

- each of said lateral outer sides having at least one region with a raised, roughened texture integrally molded thereon that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck; and

- at least one of said lateral outer sides additionally comprising ~~at least two~~ a plurality of spaced-apart cavities, with at least two each cavity embedding an individual shock-absorbing elements element embedded therein, wherein the at least two cavities are spaced apart from each other on the same lateral outer side of the blade. , each of said individual shock absorbing elements comprising at least one region with a raised, roughened texture that further enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck.

20 – 21 (Previously Withdrawn)

22. (Previously Added) A blade as defined in claim 5, the blade comprising a heel section and a toe section, both the heel and toe section being separated by a midsection, wherein each of the heel and toe sections have at least one region with raised, roughened texture with a coarser diamond grit texture than that of the midsection.

23. (Previously Added) A blade as defined in claim 22, wherein the diamond grit texture extends above each of said outer sides by about 0.05 mm at the heel and toe sections, and by about 0.025 mm at the midsection.

STATE OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15, 17, 19, 22 and 23 remain in the present application. Claims 16 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 20 and 21 have been withdrawn.